

**MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
CITY OF BAKER
PARISH OF EAST BATON ROUGE
STATE OF LOUISIANA
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
3325 GROOM ROAD, BAKER, LOUISIANA 70714
www.youtube.com/@bakerforward
April 22, 2025 - 6:00 p.m.**

The City Council of the City of Baker, Louisiana, met in regular session on April 22, 2025, with the following members in attendance at the meeting:

MAYOR
Darnell Waites

COUNCIL MEMBERS
Desiree Collins
Rochelle Dunn
Cedric Murphy
Dr. Charles Vincent

ABSENT
Robert Young

CALL TO ORDER – Mayor Waites presided.
The invocation was given by Council Member Murphy.
The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Council Member Vincent.

DISPOSITION OF THE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING
The motion was made by Council Member Vincent, seconded by Council Members Collins/Murphy to approve the minutes of the meeting held on April 8, 2025.
YEAS: Collins, Dunn, Murphy, Vincent
NAYS: None
ABSENT: Young
ABSTAIN: None
The motion passed with a vote of 4-0.

RECOGNITIONS

PLANNING AND ZONING MATTERS

Council Member Young arrived.

RESOLUTIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS

1. Resolution to Designate Authority for Baker Blvd. and Bentley Drive Improvements – Project No. H.015126 (Mayor)
Janna Rogers read the resolution.

The motion was made by Council Member Vincent, seconded by Council Member Murphy to adopt the resolution.
YEAS: Collins, Dunn, Murphy, Vincent, Young
NAYS: None
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None
The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

2. Proclamation declaring April 2025 Fair Housing Month in the City of Baker (Mayor)
Janna Rogers read the proclamation.

The motion was made by Council Member Vincent, seconded by Council Member Dunn

to accept the proclamation.

YEAS: Collins, Dunn, Murphy, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

3. Proclamation declaring April 2025 Alcohol Awareness Month in the City of Baker (Vincent)

Janna Rogers read the proclamation.

The motion was made by Council Member Vincent, seconded by Council Member Dunn to accept the proclamation.

YEAS: Collins, Dunn, Murphy, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

4. Proclamation declaring April 2025 Medicaid Awareness Month in the City of Baker (Vincent)

Janna Rogers read the proclamation.

The motion was made by Council Member Vincent, seconded by Council Member Collins to accept the proclamation.

YEAS: Collins, Dunn, Murphy, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Schedule work session to discuss updating the current sign ordinance (Mayor)

The motion was made by Council Member Collins, seconded by Council Member Vincent to schedule a work session to discuss updating the current sign ordinance on Tuesday, May 6, 2025, at 4:30 p.m.

YEAS: Collins, Dunn, Murphy, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

PUBLIC MEETING

ANNOUNCEMENTS/COMMENTS

1. Running Reverend 5K Run and Walk – Saturday, April 25, District 3 meeting – Thursday, May 1, Ronald Brady Benefit Softball Tournament and Family Day in the Park, Saturday, May 10th at Baker Park (Collins)

Council Member Collins announced the Running Reverend 5K Run and Walk is being held Saturday, April 26, 2025, in the park. Registration begins at 7:00 a.m. and the run starts at 8:00 a.m. She said the District 3 meeting will be held on Thursday, May 1, 2025, and the location will be announced. Council Member Collins announced the Ronald Brady Benefit Softball Tournament and Family Day in the Park, is being held Saturday, May 10, 2025, at Jefferson Street Park.

2. District 2 announcements (Dunn)

Council Member Dunn announced a fishing tournament/community fun day is being planned for Saturday, August 9, 2025. She asked that each of her colleagues get involved with the event, as it's a way to bring everyone in the community together.

3. District 5 announcements (Murphy)

Council Member Murphy spoke about the Running Reverend 5K Run and Walk, saying

the purpose of this event is to help empower the community at large to have a good life through spiritual and physical health. He said the event aims to bring everyone together and promote wholeness in the community. Council Member Murphy encouraged everyone to participate.

4. Streetlight call-ins, thanks for progress on Lavey Lane, assistance for District Chief Ronald Brady of the Baker Fire Department, and Keep Baker Beautiful (Vincent) Council Member Vincent verified that the city’s procedure for reporting streetlights that are out remains the same. He thanked the mayor for the progress on Lavey Lane, saying the work is slow, but they appear to be working carefully and doing a good job. Council Member Vincent thanked everyone who has helped the Brady family in their time of need. He asked that everyone continue to support District Chief Ronald Brady and his family as they fight against AML. Fire Chief Keith Pease said another blood drive is being planned for June and a benefit will be held in August as well. Council Member Vincent thanked everyone who made Love the Boot week a success. He said there was a good turnout for the Love the Boot event held Saturday, April 12, 2025. He said the Keep Baker Beautiful effort is coming along nicely and commended Dr. Ebony Iheanacho for her dynamic leadership.

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

The mayor said approximately 1.2 million dollars will be spent on road work this year with the majority of the repairs being completed on the north side of the city.

The mayor said a list of legislative activity is available to anyone interested and that two of the bills important to the city pertain to adjudicated property and traffic cameras.

The mayor reminded everyone that grass season has begun and asked that they stay vigilant and keep their yards cut.

Council Member Dunn announced a maternal health fair is being held Saturday, April 26, 2025, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at 2021 Harding Boulevard. The event is being hosted by Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated, Mu Zeta Chapter. Registration is required for this event. To register contact Janice J. Scott at (225) 235-8752 or muzetastorknest@gmail.com.

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

1. Appoint Councilmember Cedric Murphy to the Baker Main Street Economic Development District Board (Murphy)
The motion was made by Council Member Vincent, seconded by Council Member Young to appoint Council Member Murphy to the Baker Main Street Economic Development District Board.
YEAS: Collins, Dunn, Murphy, Vincent, Young
NAYS: None
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None
The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

CONDEMNATIONS

- 1. 1916 Florida (Mayor)
- 2. 2235 Chamberlain (Mayor)
- 3. 1984 Chamberlain (Mayor)
- 4. White house next door to 1984 Chamberlain (Mayor)
- 5. 2845 Groom Road (Mayor)
- 6. 1637 Robinson Street (Mayor)
- 7. 12979 Wedgewood (Mayor)

8. 2165 Chamberlain (Mayor)
9. 1752 Clark (Mayor)
10. 1905 Alabama Street (Mayor)
11. Chamberlain Avenue at John Marks (Mayor)
12. 1903 Carolyn (Mayor)
13. 2441 Ray Weiland (Mayor)
14. 1008 Epperson (Mayor)

The mayor stated the building inspector will be submitting his report on condemned properties tomorrow and demolition of said properties will begin.

REPORTS ON BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

1. Planning and Zoning Commission
2. Annexation Review Committee
3. Economic Development Team
4. Heritage Museum/Related Committees
5. ABC Board
6. Other Special Committees
 - a. Buffalo Festival
 - b. Prayer Breakfast
 - c. Strategic Planning Committee
 - d. Citizens Advisory Board to Law Enforcement
 - e. Main Street District Committee

ADJOURN

The motion was made by Council Member Dunn, seconded by Council Members Murphy/Vincent to adjourn.

YEAS: Collins, Dunn, Murphy, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

CITY OF BAKER

PARISH OF EAST BATON ROUGE

STATE OF LOUISIANA

I, Angela Canady Wall, certify that I am Clerk of the Council for the City of Baker, Louisiana, and that the above and foregoing is a copy of the minutes of a regular meeting of the Council for the City of Baker, Louisiana held on April 22, 2025.

Angela Canady Wall, LCMC
Clerk of Council

**MINUTES
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
HILLCREST MEMORIAL GARDENS
CITY OF BAKER
PARISH OF EAST BATON ROUGE
STATE OF LOUISIANA
3325 GROOM ROAD
BAKER, LA 70714
April 22, 2025**

The City Council of the City of Baker, Louisiana, sitting as the Board of Commissioners for Hillcrest Memorial Gardens, met in regular session on April 22, 2025, with the following members in attendance at the meeting:

COMMISSIONERS
Desiree Collins
Rochelle Dunn
Cedric Murphy
Dr. Charles Vincent
Darnell Waites
Robert Young

CALL TO ORDER – Commissioner Waites presided.

DISPOSITION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The meeting was called to order and the motion was made by Commissioner Waites, seconded by Commissioners Dunn/Murphy to approve the minutes of the meeting held on April 8, 2025.

YEAS: Collins, Dunn, Murphy, Vincent, Waites, Young
NAYS: None
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None
The motion passed by a vote of 6-0.

PUBLIC NOTICE

NEW BUSINESS

OTHER NECESSARY BUSINESS

1. Monthly Business Report
2. Other Reports
3. Items Requiring Action

ADJOURN

There was no other business to come before the commission. The motion was made by Commissioner Waites, seconded by Commissioners Dunn/Vincent to adjourn.

YEAS: Collins, Dunn, Murphy, Vincent, Waites, Young
NAYS: None
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None
The motion passed by a vote of 6-0.

**CITY OF BAKER
PARISH OF EAST BATON ROUGE
STATE OF LOUISIANA**

I, Angela Canady Wall, certify that I am Clerk of the Council for the City of Baker, Louisiana, and that the above and foregoing is a copy of the minutes of a regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners for the Hillcrest Memorial Gardens held on April 22, 2025.

Angela Canady Wall, LCMC
Clerk of Council

**MINUTES
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
BAKER CONSOLIDATED UTILITIES SYSTEM
CITY OF BAKER
PARISH OF EAST BATON ROUGE
STATE OF LOUISIANA
3325 GROOM ROAD
BAKER, LA 70714
April 22, 2025**

The City Council of the City of Baker, Louisiana, sitting as the Board of Commissioners for the Baker Consolidated Utilities System, met in regular session on April 22, 2025, with the following members attending:

COMMISSIONERS
Desiree Collins
Rochelle Dunn
Cedric Murphy
Dr. Charles Vincent
Darnell Waites
Robert Young

CALL TO ORDER – Commissioner Waites presided.

DISPOSITION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The meeting was called to order and the motion was made by Commissioner Waites, seconded by Commissioners Murphy/Vincent to approve the minutes of the meeting held on April 8, 2025.

YEAS: Collins, Dunn, Murphy, Vincent, Waites, Young
NAYS: None
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None
The motion passed by a vote of 6-0.

PUBLIC NOTICE

NEW BUSINESS

OTHER NECESSARY BUSINESS

1. Monthly Business Report
2. Other Reports
3. Items Requiring Action

ADJOURN

There was no other business to come before the commission. The motion was made by Commissioner Waites, seconded by Commissioner Dunn to adjourn.
YEAS: Collins, Dunn, Murphy, Vincent, Waites, Young
NAYS: None
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None
The motion passed by a vote of 6-0.

**CITY OF BAKER
PARISH OF EAST BATON ROUGE
STATE OF LOUISIANA**

I, Angela Canady Wall, certify that I am Clerk of the Council for the City of Baker, Louisiana, and that the above and foregoing is a copy of the minutes of a regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Baker Consolidated Utility System held on April 22, 2025.

Angela Canady Wall, LCMC
Clerk of Council